

# LOOP AFFILIATION REMAINS IN DOUBT

## Club Could Be Part of New Continental Circuit or of National League

By ROBERT M. LIPSYTE

New York was virtually assured of a second major league baseball team when the National League voted in favor of expansion yesterday.

Ford C. Frick, the Commissioner of Baseball, said that he could think of no expansion plans that would not include New York. Baseball men agreed that the National League action probably would result in a second big-league team here, either in the proposed Continental League or in the National League, should the Continental fail to get started.

"The National League vote clears the air," Frick said. "It does two things. It makes expansion a reality and it also gives the Continental League a chance to qualify if it fulfills its obligations to baseball."

### Continental Hopes Slim

Despite Frick's words and the optimism of William A. Shea, a founder of the Continental League, the consensus among informed baseball men is that the new circuit will never get off the ground. According to their thinking, expansion will take this course:

The National League would put teams in New York and either Toronto and Minneapolis. The American League would place teams in Los Angeles and Houston.

This action would kill the Continental League, which has franchises in New York, Houston, Minneapolis, Toronto, as well as Buffalo, Denver, Dallas-Fort Worth and Atlanta.

The Yankees have offered the use of the Stadium to a National League club until such time as the club gets a park of its own. Mayor Wagner, in the hope of luring another team to New York, has already initiated plans for the construction of a 55,000-seat stadium at Flushing Meadows, Queens.

Wagner, upon his arrival last night at New York International Airport, Idlewild, Queens, from Los Angeles, was asked about the latest development in the baseball situation.

"I haven't heard about this," he replied, "but it shows we've had foresight. The stadium is here for the Continental League or a team from an expanded league."

### A Search for a Team

The stadium was to provide the home of the New York representative in the Continental league. The feeling among baseball men is that the construction of the stadium would continue and upon completion it would cause the National League to try.

Since the Giants and the Dodgers left for the West Coast after the 1957 season, New York has been seeking another team. Toward this effort, Mayor Wagner appointed Shea as chairman of his baseball committee.

Shea, who felt at the time that the only way to bring another team here was to form a third league, made contact with Branch Rickey, who became the president of the proposed new loop.

In the face of almost overwhelming opinion to the contrary, Shea felt yesterday that the National League vote was a hopeful sign.

Shea expects to meet with representatives of the established circuits in the next three weeks. He said a newspaper man, calling him from Chicago, had reported that the National League was in good faith and expected to work something out with the Continental.

Shea pointed to the support the Continental League had found in Congress and his own feeling that many of the major league club owners were in his camp, as signs that the leagues were really ready to do business.

The Kefauver Bill, restricting major league draft power and allowing the Continental League to acquire players now controlled by the majors, was defeated in the Senate, 45-41, but it was sent back to committee for reconsideration by a 13-12 vote.

### Expects Congress To Act

Shea said he expected Congress would get around to the bill next month.

Since the Dodgers and Giants departed, rumors have transferred the Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia clubs to New York. Shea reiterated that his main objective had always been to get New York a second team.

"I have been convinced for a long time that the only way to get that is by a third major league. Perhaps Powell Crosland's statement that he planned to keep his Redlegs in Cincinnati had something to do with the National League action.

"The economics of expansion from within just don't make sense compared to the third major league. We've got eight cities and we've got the men behind us. If the major leagues have trouble supporting their seventh and eighth place teams what are they going to do about their ninth and tenth place teams?"

Shea said that he was sure Rickey would be glad to meet with the National League's committee because we "want to use every means at our disposal to be taken under the umbrella of organized ball."

Rickey, who had left his office before the telegram inviting him to talk with National and American league representatives about expansion arrived, was unavailable for comment last night.